(c) whether this meeting has affected the Enron Project in any way; and

(d) the name of India's representative at this meeting and what was the reaction of the US side on it since the alliance was conceived as a forum for joint interaction between business of both the countries for facilitating trade and investment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Out of 10 Indian members on the Board of the Alliance, 7 members and 2 nominees (of members) attended the meeting. Reaction of the US side on the Enron Project does not arise in view of the reply to part (b) above.

Revocation of Detention Order

1963. SHRI K. R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report which appeared in the Hindu dated 14th July, 1995 captioned "Buta Singh cancels Gujarat detention order";

(b) whether the Union Civil Supplies Minister had ordered the release of a black marketing petrol pump-owner arrested by the State Government; and

(c) if so, what action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) and (c) The Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980 empowers the central Government to revoke any detention order made by a State Government under the Act. On considering/examining the representation of Shri P.S. Hariya, a detenu from Gujarat, the Central Government has revoked his detention order. Since this is a lawful action, no further action in the matter is called for.

Issuing of Advance Licence by DGFT to Visakhapatnam Steel Limited

1964. SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL:
SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:
SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that advance licences wree issued by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade recently to Visakhapatnam Steel Limited for import of copper plates against actual users licence;

(b) whether the quantity involved far exceeded the actual requirement of the VSL and if so, whether a part of the licence was nominated in the name of third parties;

(c) whether such third parties availed of import duty concessions to which they were not normally entitled to; and

(d) if so, whether Government would institute an inquiry into the matter and made available its findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Duty-free advance licences were issued (both value and quantity based) to VSP against their export orders/ export production programme, to meet their import requirement of various items of import, including copper plates, for the product to be exported, as per the standard input-output norms.

(b) to (d) In the quantity based licences, quantities of import items are restricted as per standard input-output norms/technical recommendations. In such cases party can import an item only upto the quantity mentioned in the licence. However, in case of value based licences, import items are not restricted quantity wise and, in general, flexibility has been allowed to import any of the inputs specified in the licence within the total CIF value of the licence. This facility is not available in the case of items appearing in the case of items appearing in the sensitive lists.

Certain relaxations were given in respect of input-output norms for some advance